

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 5 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejections.

Claims 12 and 16-19 are cancelled without prejudice to presentation in a continuation application.

1. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 5-7 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for several reasons. First the Examiner states that these claims contain two diversified concepts that do not connect ("distributing" the outsourced modules and "releasing" the outsourced modules). Applicant acknowledges that these two steps appear to be duplicative, and has amended independent claim 5 to delete the duplication and to use the word "distributing" rather than "releasing."

Second, the Examiner notes that the step "receiving said competitive and non-competitive bids" conflicts with the step "receiving said at least one outsourced bid." Applicant has amended claim 5 to clarify that the "outsourced bid" includes "competitive and non-competitive bids."

With respect to antecedent basis, Applicant respectfully disagrees. The phrase "in-house bid" is first referred to on line 8 of claim 5. The phrase "outsourced bid" is first referred to on line 15 of claim 5.

Accordingly, independent claim 5, and dependent claims 6 and 7, are patentable. Claims 16-19 have been cancelled.

2. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claims 12 and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Applicant has cancelled claims 12 and 16-19.

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3. Conclusion

Based on the amendments herein, claims 5-7 are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this case to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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